



Department of  
Toxic Substances  
Control

*Preventing  
environmental  
damage from  
hazardous waste,  
and restoring  
contaminated  
sites for all  
Californians.*



State of California



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, February 2007

## Former BASAPCO Site Cleanup Plan Available for Review

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is proposing a cleanup plan for a 0.5 acre parcel of property known as the Former Battery Sales and Processing Company, Inc. (BASAPCO) (Site) located at 27 South Linden Avenue, South San Francisco, California, (See Site Location Map on page 2). Remedial investigations at the Site have found lead and total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) as motor oil in the soil. Cleanup of the Site will allow for the possible redevelopment of the property for future unrestricted use.

DTSC is overseeing the environmental investigation and cleanup under the Polanco Redevelopment Act. This act promotes the cleanup and redevelopment of blighted contaminated properties in a community and ensures that the property is ready for reuse. The cleanup plan, called a Draft Removal Action Work Plan (RAW) describes in detail the investigation and proposed cleanup activities at the Site. DTSC encourages you to review the proposed Draft RAW, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Notice of Exemption and other site-related documents, available at the information repositories listed on page 4.

This fact sheet provides you with a summary of the Site background, environmental investigations, the proposed cleanup plan, and provides opportunities for public involvement. If you have questions about this Site, please contact Xavier Bryant, DTSC Project Manager, at (510) 540-3835 or by email at [xbryant@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:xbryant@dtsc.ca.gov).

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** **February 14, 2007 – March 16, 2007**

We encourage you to review and comment on the Draft Remedial Action Workplan. DTSC is holding a 30-day public comment period **February 14, 2007 through March 16, 2007**. Please mail written comments to Xavier Bryant, DTSC Project Manager, 700 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley, California, 94710, or by phone at (510) 540-3835. All comments must be postmarked by March 16, 2007. All emailed comments should be sent to [xbryant@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:xbryant@dtsc.ca.gov) no later than 5:00 pm on March 16, 2007.

For information about public participation and community involvement, please contact Nancy Cook, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, 700 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley, California, 94710, or by phone at (510) 540-3923 or by email at [ncook@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:ncook@dtsc.ca.gov). A public meeting will be considered if a written request identifying the issues to be raised is received by Nancy Cook by March 16, 2007.



## Site Location

The BASAPCO site is located at 27 South Linden Avenue, South San Francisco, California. The Site is approximately half an acre and is bordered to the north by an industrial warehouse, to the east by an undeveloped property, to the south by Colma Creek, and to the west by South Linden Avenue. A low concrete wall exists between the Site and Colma Creek.



**BASAPCO Site Location Map**

## Site History

The Former BASAPCO Site and surrounding properties have been used for industrial purposes such as automobile repair shops, battery, concrete and radiator service companies since the 1940s. In 1968, the property was leased by BASAPCO to dismantle and recycle car and heavy equipment lead batteries. BASAPCO operations consisted of draining acid from the batteries, disposing of casings and selling lead plates. Most of these activities occurred on the eastern portion of the Site. The business office and a warehouse occupied the western portion of the property.

In 1979, battery recycling operations temporarily ceased because elevated lead concentrations were detected in the soil on the Site and in Colma Creek. BASAPCO was required to implement measures to eliminate lead contamination to Colma Creek. After pollution reduction measures were implemented, BASAPCO resumed their battery recycling operations in 1982. In 1983 they added truck repair and scrap metal operations. All operations continued until 1994. Since that time the buildings on the property have been demolished and the property

stands idle, with occasional use as an equipment storage area. In October 2003, 1,200 cubic yards of contaminated soil was excavated along the creek adjacent to the Site, as part of the San Mateo County's Colma Creek improvement project.

## Soil and Groundwater Investigations

DTSC cleanup goals are developed on the basis of site-specific, risk-based factors and are designed to facilitate the development and evaluation of the cleanup technologies and alternatives.

Cleanup goals are chemical concentrations that have been defined as protective of human health and the environment.

## Soil Investigations

Between 1979 and 2006, approximately 55 soil samples were collected from 32 locations on and around the Site. Soil samples were collected from depths from 0 to 17.5 feet below ground surface. Soil samples were analyzed for a variety of chemical constituents including metals, total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs).

VOCs and SVOCs were found to be below screening levels. Of the metals analyzed, arsenic and chromium were found to be higher than screening levels, but were consistent with Bay Area background soil concentrations. Therefore, arsenic and chromium do not need to be included as part of the cleanup process.

Soil concentrations of lead and TPH as motor oil exceeded the screening criteria for unrestricted land use. Lead concentrations ranged from nondetect to 160,000 parts per million (ppm). The residential cleanup goal for the Site is 286 ppm. The greatest concentrations of lead were detected in the upper 3 feet of soil on the eastern portion of the Site, where most of the BASAPCO battery dismantling operation is known to have occurred. The Site is also impacted with TPH as motor oil. TPH as motor oil concentrations were detected at the Site ranging from 50 ppm to 3,600 ppm. The Site unrestricted cleanup goals for TPH as motor oil is 500 ppm.

### ***Groundwater Investigations***

In 2005, three temporary wells were installed to a maximum depth of 15 feet on the eastern portion of the Site to evaluate the groundwater. The groundwater samples were analyzed for lead. Lead was not detected in any of the samples, indicating that lead in soil is not leaching to groundwater at the Site.

### **Draft Removal Action Work Plan**

The primary objective of the Draft RAW is to evaluate cleanup alternatives and to identify a preferred alternative that prevents or reduces potential risks to public health and the environment. A Draft RAW summarizes previous studies and identifies the possible removal alternatives. Removal alternatives are screened and evaluated on the basis of their effectiveness, ability to implement, and cost. The Draft RAW then identifies the alternative DTSC recommends and believes is the most appropriate for the site.

Before DTSC makes a final decision to approve or deny a Draft RAW, the document is made available for public comment during a 30-day public comment period. All comments are reviewed and considered before the Draft RAW is approved.

### **Proposed Cleanup Alternatives**

Five alternatives were evaluated to address lead and TPH as motor oil contaminated soil at the Former BASAPCO Site.

Alternative 1 – “No Action”: This alternative leaves contamination in place and takes no action to address the problem.

Alternative 2 – Excavation/Off-site Disposal for Unrestricted Land-use: Under this alternative, the soil and associated asphalt contaminated with lead and TPH as motor oil would be excavated and disposed of offsite. Sampling would occur to confirm that remaining soil is below cleanup goals. The excavation would be backfilled with DTSC approved clean soil. Future land use would not have any restrictions.

Alternative 3 – Excavation/Off-site Disposal for Industrial/Commercial Land-use: Under this alternative, the soil and associated asphalt contaminated with lead and TPH as motor oil

would be excavated and disposed of offsite at or above the commercial/industrial cleanup goal. Sampling would occur to confirm that remaining soil is below cleanup goals. The excavation would be backfilled with DTSC approved clean soil. A land-use restriction would be required to restrict future land uses of the Site.

Alternative 4 – Capping and Institutional Controls: Under this alternative, the existing asphalt cap would be maintained over all areas of the site. The asphalt cap would serve to eliminate direct-contact exposure to soil. This alternative leaves the contaminated soil on the site. A land-use restriction would be required to restrict future land uses and construction activities at the Site.

Alternative 5 – In-situ Solidification and Stabilization with Institutional Controls: Under this alternative, the contaminated soil would be treated with a binding chemical designed to solidify the lead and preventing it from leaching or migrating into the groundwater. An impervious cap would be installed to prevent infiltration of rain. This alternative would leave the contaminated soil on the Site. A land-use restriction would be required to restrict future land uses of the Site. The contaminant, TPH as motor oil would be allowed to break down naturally.

### **DTSC Recommended Alternative**

DTSC believes Alternative 2, excavation and offsite disposal of contaminated soil for unrestricted land-use, is the preferred cleanup method. Approximately 1,090 cubic yards of soil would be excavated from the Site and hauled to a permitted land disposal facility. Confirmation sampling would be conducted to confirm the remaining soil is below cleanup goals. The excavation would be backfilled with DTSC approved clean soil, taken from the western portion of the Site. This alternative is the most protective of human health and the environment, is cost effective, and can be readily implemented.

Before DTSC makes a final decision to approve or deny the proposed plan, we will review and consider the comments received during the 30-day public comment period.

## Proposed Cleanup Activities

The following activities are proposed for the Site:

- Excavation and disposal of soil exceeding the cleanup goals for lead and TPH as motor oil. Soil excavation depths will range from 1-foot to 7-feet below ground surface, mostly in the eastern portion of the Site.
- Collection of confirmation soil samples to verify site specific cleanup goals have been met.
- Characterization of soil for offsite disposal.
- Airborne dust monitoring will be conducted during excavation activities and throughout the daytime work schedule.
- Dust suppression activities, consisting of water spraying onto soil and work areas, will be conducted during excavation.
- Backfilling of excavated areas with clean soil.

## California Environmental Quality Act – Notice of Exemption

As part of the Draft RAW process, a Notice of Exemption (NOE) has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This document will be filed with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse. The Draft NOE is DTSC's finding that the proposed cleanup would have no impact on the environment or human health because of the controls in place during the cleanup process.

## Anuncio

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de ésta información, favor de llamar a Jacinto Soto, Departamento de Control de Substancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es (510) 540-3842

## Notice to the Hearing Impaired

TDD users can obtain information about the site by using the California State Relay Service (800) 735-2929 to reach the Public Participation Specialist. Ask them to contact Nancy Cook at (510) 540-3923 regarding the Former BASAPCO Site in South San Francisco, California.

## Information Repositories

DTSC encourages you to review the Draft RAW, the Notice of Exemption and other site-related documents, available at the information repositories listed below:

South San Francisco Planning Department  
315 Maple Avenue  
South San Francisco, CA 94080  
(650) 877-8535

South San Francisco Public Library  
840 W Orange Avenue  
South San Francisco, California 94080  
(650) 877-8521

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
File Room  
700 Heinz Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94710  
(510) 540-3800  
Please call for an appointment

## For More Information

For more information about the Site, the cleanup process and related documents please contact:

Xavier Bryant  
DTSC Project Manager  
(510) 540-3835  
E-mail [xbryant@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:xbryant@dtsc.ca.gov)

For questions regarding the public participation process please contact:

Nancy Cook  
DTSC Public Participation Specialist  
(510) 540-3923  
E-mail [ncook@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:ncook@dtsc.ca.gov)

For media questions please contact:  
Ms. Angela Blanchette  
DTSC Public Participation  
(510) 540-3732  
E-mail [ablanche@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:ablanche@dtsc.ca.gov)